Land prices chargeable from Cooperative Group Housing Societies

610. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi has in their convention held on June 30, 1990 demanded that Delhi Administration should reduce the land price for cooperative Group Housing Societies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the land prices which were fixed at Rs. 425 per square metre in 1987, were raised to Rs. 1375 per square metie and have lately been reduced by Delhi Administration to Rs.975 per square metre, which in effect meant a hike of more than 225%; and

(c) what has been Government's reaction to the latest demand of the Federation?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The rate of Rs. 975/- per square metre fixed by the DDA for allotment of land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies in South Delhi (Dwarka) is based on the estimated cost of acquisition and development and there is little scope for reduction.

Steps to bring down prices of essential commodities

611. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any firm steps in May this year to bring down the prices of cement, tea, vegetable oils and soaps to pre-budget (1990) levels and to stabilise the same at that level;

(b) if so, what were its effect on their retail during the months of June and July this year indicating maximum and minimum levels registered in respect of each item in each month; and

(c) what further steps are being contemplated to bring down and stabiJise their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Government is keeping a continuous watch on the price situation of selected essential commodities. These efforts were further intensified in the months of April and May, 1990 when prices of some of the essential commodities exhibited signs of rising trend after the Union Budget for 1990-91. Meetings were held with the representatives of cement industry and as a result, the industry agreed to roll back the cement prices to the level obtaining in March, 1990. In case of tea, there is a Monitoring Committee on Tea Prices in the Ministry of Commerce whose meetings are held periodically to keep a watch on prices, and availability of tea. Exports of tea have been staggered to reduce the pressure on domestic markets and industry has been asked to ensure the supplies and availability of economy packs of tea through cooperatives and other outlets.

In case of edible oils, several steps have been taken to check increase in their prices which include:

(i) Blending of conventional oil (mustard, groundnut) with one non-conventional oil (like soyabean, cottonseed, safflower) has been permitted (w.e.f. 23rd April, 1990)

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India has increased the margin money needed by the oilseed trade w.e.f. 2.7.1990.

(iii) Stock limits of edible oils have been reduced by 50% in the case of processors and manufacturers of edible oils w.e.f. 2.7.90.

(iv) Use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of *Vanaspati* has been withdrawn from 6.7.90.

(v) The supplies of imported edible oils